

Giving Bible Studies

Training Manual

Sharing God's Word with Friends

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Giving Bible Studies Manual

Table of Contents:

Introduction

Fears and Promises

They Are Waiting

Where to Look?

Heart Preparation

Soil Preparation

Inviting Your Friend to Study12 Denominational

Concerns.....13 Getting

Started15 Giving the Bible

Study.....19 Making

Appeals20 Distractions, Questions, and Other

Challenges	21	Leading a Person to Accept
Christ	24	Pointers for Gaining
Decisions	26	Getting Your Contacts to Church or an
Evangelistic Meeting	29	Promises for Soul-
Winners.....	31	
Appendix:	36	

Surveys for Finding a Bible Study Contact

Neighborhood Survey	37	Community Religious Survey
1.....	38	Community Religious Survey 2.....
Final Events of Prophecy Survey.....	40	Final Events of Prophecy Follow-
Up Survey.....	41	

Survey Street Sheet	42	Sharing Gospel
Seeds.....	43	Sample Literature Seed Sowing
Kit.....	46	Interest Record
Sheets	47	Turning Drop-off Studies into In-home
Studies	49	Difficult Bible Text Practice Sheet
Giving Bible Studies Resources.....	55	

.....	
2	
3	
4	
5	
7	10

Introduction

As Seventh-day Adventist Christians, we believe in the soon coming of Jesus. God has given our church an enormous amount of knowledge on the prophetic books of Daniel and Revelation that speak specifically of our times. With this knowledge also comes responsibility. We are told—

“In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers. To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world. On them is shining wonderful light from the word of God. They have been given a work of the most solemn import—the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels’ messages. There is no other work of so great importance. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention.” *Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 19

Early Adventists took this commission seriously. In those early years, preaching and a wide distribution of literature were the two primary means of spreading the message. However, it was not until 1883, twenty years after the church was officially organized, that the idea of giving personal Bible studies from house to house was introduced. It happened almost by accident.

In May 1883, S. N. Haskell, the founder of the Tract and Missionary Societies, was preaching at a camp meeting in southern California, when suddenly a severe storm arose. The thunder was so loud the people could no longer hear him. At that moment Haskell had an idea. Leaving the platform, he walked out into the middle of the tent and gathered the crowd around him. Rather than resume his preaching, he gave out texts of scripture to be read by different persons as he asked questions. In this way the first question and answer Bible study was created. When Ellen White, who was also at the camp meeting, learned of what Haskell had done, she told him that she had seen in vision hundreds of church members visiting families and giving Bible studies in this very way. She later wrote –

“The plan of holding Bible-readings was a heaven-born idea. There are many, both men and women, who can engage in this branch of missionary labor. Workers may thus be developed who will become mighty men of God. By this means the word of God has been given to thousands; and the workers are brought into personal contact with people of all nations and tongues.” *Gospel Workers*, p. 192

“To all who are working with Christ I would say, Wherever you can gain access to the people by the fireside, improve your opportunity. Take your Bible, and open before them its great truths ... The presentation of Christ in the family, by the fireside, and in small gatherings in private houses, is often more successful in winning souls to Jesus than are sermons delivered in the open air, to the moving throng, or even in halls or churches.” *Gospel Workers*, p. 193

Giving Bible studies in the home is a “heaven-born idea” because:

- It develops workers who will become mighty men and women of God.
- It is a work that will not go unrewarded.
- It leads people to an individual search of the Word of God.
- It is one of the most successful ways to win souls to Jesus.
The importance of this work cannot be underestimated.

2

“There are families who will never be reached by the truth of God’s Word unless His servants enter their homes, and by earnest ministry, sanctified by the endorsement of the Holy Spirit, break down the barriers. As the people see that these workers are messengers of mercy, the ministers of grace, they are ready to listen to the words spoken by them.” *Evangelism*, p. 435, 436.

In my experience as a Bible Worker, I have realized that there are many who are not ready to step foot in an Adventist church or attend an evangelistic series, but these same ones will eagerly accept an invitation to study the Bible in the non-threatening environment of a home. Here as they open God's Word and discover its beautiful message to their lives, their hearts are softened, their conscience pricked, and their desire to learn more awakened. It is only then that I can invite them to church.

Fears and Promises

The idea of giving Bible studies can bring fear and anxiety to the hearts of many church members. In the past, the vast majority of church members knew how to give a Bible study. We were known as the "people of the book" because of our ready ability to open God's Word and give an answer to every man that asked us a reason of the hope that is in us with meekness and fear (1 Peter 3:15). Somehow over the years, this ability was lost and today many members rely on their pastor to give the Bible studies to those who are seeking. But think for a moment. How many people can your pastor really study with? He is only one person! However, if every church member knew how to give a Bible study and gave one or two a week the result would be hundreds of baptisms where now there are only dozens!

We must realize that God can use us as easily as He can use the pastor to give a Bible study. Too often we think we must have a degree in theology before we can study God's Word with someone. However, the truth is that we only need a little knowledge and a lot of dependence on Jesus because only He can bring success.

"Your success will not depend so much upon your knowledge and accomplishments, as upon your ability to find your way to the heart. By being social and coming close to the people, you may turn the current of their thoughts more readily than by the most able discourse." *Gospel Workers*, p. 193

“ It is not the capabilities you now possess or ever will have that will give you success. It is that which the Lord can do for you. We need to have far less confidence in what man can do and far more confidence in what God can do for every believing soul. He longs to have you reach after Him by faith. He longs to have you expect great things from Him. ” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 146

What if you don’t know your Bible extremely well? Remember this:

“ He who begins with a little knowledge, in a humble way, and tells what he knows, while seeking diligently for further knowledge, will find the whole heavenly treasure awaiting his demand. The more he seeks to impart light, the more light he will receive. The more one tries to explain the word of God to others, with a love for souls, the plainer it becomes

3

to himself. The more we use our knowledge and exercise our powers, the more knowledge and power we shall have. ” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 354

The fastest way to grow in your knowledge of the Bible is to begin sharing the little bit you already know. As you share, God will teach you more. Remember you only need to be one baby step ahead of the person you are studying with!

If you go forward in faith, taking to heart the material in this manual, God will richly bless your efforts to give Bible studies.

“God will not permit this precious work for Him to go unrewarded. He will crown with success every humble effort made in His name. ” *Gospel Workers*, p. 192

So begin to visualize now where you will very soon be.

“Two Bible workers were seated in a family. With the open Bible before them, they presented the Lord Jesus Christ as the sin-pardoning Saviour. Earnest prayer was offered to God, and hearts were softened and subdued by the influence of the Spirit of God. Their prayers were uttered with freshness and power. As the Word of God was explained, I saw that a soft, radiant light illumined the Scriptures, and I said softly, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that My house may be filled.’ The precious light was communicated from neighbor to neighbor. Family altars which had been broken down were again erected, and many were converted.” *Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 35, 36

They Are Waiting

In order to give a Bible study, you must first find someone who wants to study. We often think this is the hardest part, but in fact it is probably the easiest. Jesus even says so.

“Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.’” *Matthew 9:37, 38*

“Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest.” *John 5:35*

What Jesus is telling us is that there are many ready and willing to study. The problem is with us. We are not willing to seek and find these waiting ones.

“All over the world men and women are looking wistfully to heaven. Prayers and tears and inquiries go up from souls longing for light, for grace, for the Holy Spirit. Many are on the verge of the kingdom, waiting only to be gathered in. An angel guided Philip to the one who was seeking for light and who was ready to

receive the gospel, and today angels will guide the footsteps of those workers who will allow the Holy Spirit to sanctify their tongues and refine and ennoble their hearts.” *Acts of Apostles*, p. 109

Ask God to lead you to those who want to know God better. Right now there may be several individuals praying for God to send someone to them to help them understand His Word. If you make yourself willing, God will guide you to them.

4

Where to Look?

Finding a Bible study interest is actually very easy. There are many places where you can find them. Below are just a few of the many options you have.

Family/Friends/Neighbors/Co-Workers

Who among your family and friends is not an Adventist or born again believer? Each of us has family and friends for whom we have a special burden. God puts that burden in our hearts because He recognizes that often times we are the best persons to reach our family and friends.

Studies have shown that 75-90% of Christians come to Christ because of the influence of a friend or relative and that 57% of all new members in the Seventh-day Adventist church were invited to evangelistic meetings or church by friends or relatives.

Friendship evangelism is what grew the New Testament church, forming the center of its disciple-making. The Greek word is *oikos* and refers to one's "household" including immediate family members, servants, servant's families, friends, and even business associates.

Each of us have an *oikos* – our personal sphere of influence – or social system composed of those related to us through ties of kinship, tasks, or geography. Bible studies among one's *oikos* are very effective. Your friends already know you and trust you. This allows for natural sharing. Studies with friends also tend to provide new contacts for studies because of the social networking structure. As a result, entire families can be won to the gospel.

When tempted to pass by those we know because they are “too close”, let's remember the words of Jesus to a brand-new disciple. “Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you.’ And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled. ” Mark 5:19, 20

Church Visitors

Do you have non-Adventist visitors that come to your church? You might be surprised who walks into your church. Sometimes it is non-Adventist friends or family of members. Sometimes it is individuals who come out of curiosity or who have been watching 3ABN or reading Adventist literature and decide one Sabbath to attend. Train your greeters to spot these visitors and to kindly invite them to sign a guestbook providing their name and address. Let them know they'll receive a small gift as a thank you for coming.

The following week visit these individuals bringing them a small gift book (nothing heavy doctrine) and thank them for coming. Ask them if there is anything your church could have done to make their visit more welcome. If they are positive about your church, ask them if they would like to receive free Bible study guides. They may very likely say, yes, and when they do, set up a time each week when you can bring their next guide and study together.

Let's not neglect those who visit your church. There may be many who have been attending for weeks or even months who would take Bible studies if someone would ask them. The very fact that they are already attending church means that they are a good interest!

Church Ministries

Every church should be creating an ongoing database of names and addresses of those who have attended programs held by your church. This could include Vacation Bible School, health programs, community service, fair booth, evangelistic meetings, etc. Once a year, send a mailing

5

to all these names, inviting them to call to receive free Bible study guides. Once their physical and emotional needs are met, people are more likely to respond to an appeal for Bible studies.

Media Interests

Begin by calling the *Amazing Facts* Bible School at (916) 434-3880. Ask if there are any students of their Bible school in your area. You will need to provide them with the zip codes. They will send you a print out that lists the names and lessons completed. When you go to visit the people take a copy of the first study guide, "Is There Anything Left You Can Trust?" and either a gift booklet by Doug Batchelor or the *Final Events of Bible Prophecy* DVD.

At the door, tell them you are a local representative of Amazing Facts and you understand they have taken some of their Bible lessons (show them the guide). Ask them how they've enjoyed the lessons and even how they first started receiving the lessons. Give them the free book as a thank you and offer to loan them the DVD to watch. Tell them you will stop by in a week to pick it up and learn how they enjoyed it.

At this visit or the next visit, you can tell them about another great set of Bible lessons and invite them to begin these studies. Explain that you would be delivering them and if they like you can do them together.

This method works wonderfully. Think of other Adventist media ministries that you might want to contact for additional names. Ask your pastor if he has received any names from *It Is Written* or *Project: Steps to Christ* that you could follow up on.

Card Mailing

If you are looking for a lot of Bible Study interests fast, do a mailing to your zip code of the *Something Wonderful* cards by Seminars Unlimited (817) 641-3643. An average response is 5-6 per 1000 homes. When you visit the homes, take the filled out card with you to show the person as you tell them you have come to bring them the Bible study guides they requested.

Surveys

One of the best ways to find Bible study interests is going personally to their homes with a few question survey. This method allows you to have a conversation with them based on Bible topics allowing you to find out their interest level and make some type of connection with them before asking them if they would like Bible studies. There are many types of surveys you can use. See the appendix of this manual for a list of surveys that work.

Literature Distribution

When your church does a mass distribution of literature in your area, consider including an insert or a sticker offering free Bible study lessons. Provide a phone number, email address, or mailing address where they can contact you. The selling of literature door to door as done by literature

evangelists or colporteurs is also another great way to generate Bible studies. Those who buy religious books often also want Bible studies. Team up with a literature evangelist in your area or consider learning how to do it yourself. The Michigan Conference Publishing Department can help you learn.

6

Divine Appointments

Sometimes God likes to surprise us in unexpected ways. Keep a prayer in your heart and your eyes open to opportunities God sends you. You'll know when this is a divine appointment. Don't be afraid to ask the person if they would like to study the Bible with you. God is the one who arranged that opportunity!

Heart Preparation

The most important preparation for giving Bible studies is not finding a friend to study with, getting the right lesson guide, memorizing all the texts, or practicing your delivery. While these may have their place, they will be utterly fruitless without the preparation of your heart. God wants to see your friend eternally saved. He wants to work through you to make that a reality. But if your heart is not beating in unison with His, if you have sins unsundered, God is greatly limited in what He can do through you. It is therefore critical that we take time to have our heart right with God before even approaching our friend to take Bible studies.

What steps can we take to prepare our heart?

“It is a sin for those who attempt to teach the Word to others to be themselves neglectful of its study ... Of all men upon the face of the earth, those who are proclaiming the message for this time should understand their Bible, and be thoroughly acquainted with the evidences of their faith. One who does not possess a knowledge of the Word of life, has no right to try to instruct others in the way to heaven. ” *Gospel Workers*, p. 249

1. Devotional Life

Daily Bible study fortifies your mind with the truths of Scripture, opens before your mind concepts and ideas that make the Scriptures more plain to you and your Bible study contact, and keeps you from the path of the enemy.

This is not saying that you need to have a seminary degree in theology or be able to give an expository explanation of the many nuances of the 28 fundamental beliefs. But what it is saying, is that if you are not spending time in Bible study you are not going to have anything to share. You will be feeding people stale bread that you received second-hand from someone else. Such bread cannot give life. You must go to the fountain of life yourself and feast and then take what you have received to the one who is hungry.

“ The life of God, which gives life to the world, is in His word. It was by His word that Jesus healed disease and cast out demons. By His word He stilled the sea and raised the dead; and the people bore witness that His word was with power. He spoke the word of God as He had spoken it to all the Old Testament writers. The whole Bible is a manifestation of Christ. It is our only source of power. ” *Gospel Workers*, p. 250.

The same Word that created the worlds can recreate in you the likeness of Jesus and recreate the heart of your friend. It is your only hope!

The Holy Scriptures “are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.” *2 Timothy 3:15-17, ESV*

7

2. Prayer Life

A look at the example of Jesus reveals the importance of prayer for anyone engaged in soul-winning.

“The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned. The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back.” *Isaiah 50:4, 5*

“And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.” *Mark 1:35*

“And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.” *Luke 6:12*

Before meeting with the people, Jesus met with His Father. Early in the mornings he woke up to hear His Father’s voice and to receive instructions for the day. We need to do the same.

What should you pray for?

- A heart that is free from pride and self.

- Pure motives for wanting to give Bible studies to your friend.
- Ability to see your friend through the eyes of Jesus.
- Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit as He prompts you step by step.
- Wisdom to know when and what to say.

3. Surrender of Self

“In choosing men and women for His service, God does not ask whether they possess learning or eloquence or worldly wealth. He asks: ‘Do they walk in such humility that I can teach them My way? Can I put My words into their lips? Will they represent Me?’ God can use every person just in proportion as He can put His Spirit into the soul-temple.” *Testimonies*, vol. 7, p. 144

“The worker for God should be prepared to put forth the highest mental and moral energies with which nature, cultivation, and the grace of God have endowed him; but his success will be proportionate to the degree of consecration and self-sacrifice in which the work is done, rather than to either natural or acquired endowments.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 583

A heart emptied of self is a heart that can be filled with the Holy Spirit. The less there is of me, the more there can be of Christ. And when Christ is supreme in the life, we will be able to work the works of Christ.

“There is no limit to the usefulness of the one who, putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God.” *Christian Service*, p. 254.

- Boldness when the time comes to ask them to open God’s Word with you.

- Understanding of God's Word and skill in sharing it with your friend.

8

It is by daily beholding Jesus that the self in our lives becomes disgusting to us and we choose to set it aside.

“No man can empty himself of self. We can only consent for Christ to accomplish the work. Then the language of the soul will be, Lord, take my heart; for I cannot give it. It is Thy property. Keep it pure, for I cannot keep it for Thee. Save me in spite of myself, my weak, unchristlike self. Mold me, fashion me, raise me into a pure and holy atmosphere, where the rich current of Thy love can flow through my soul. It is not only at the beginning of the Christian life that this renunciation of self is to be made. At every advance step heavenward it is to be renewed.” Christ's Object Lessons, p. 159, 160

So “let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”
Hebrews 12:1, 2

4. Expect God to Work

As you go forward to give Bible studies, go with faith that God is going work miracles in your behalf. Don't doubt God's ability to use you!

“The Lord is disappointed when His people place a low estimate upon themselves. He desires His chosen heritage to value themselves according to the price He has placed upon them. God wanted them, else He would not have sent His Son on such an expensive errand to redeem them. He has a use for them, and He is

well pleased when they make the very highest demands upon Him, that they may glorify His name. They may expect large things if they have faith in His promises.” *Desire of Ages*, p. 668

Remember that success is not dependent on you, but on God. So trust His promise to do what He is fully capable of doing.

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.”

John 14:12-14

“Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day.” *Exodus 14:13*

“Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me? Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who has made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.” *Jeremiah 32:27, 17*

Soil Preparation

Jesus told a parable about a farmer planting seed.

“And He said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. ” *Mark 4:26*

How a seed germinates into a plant is a mystery. God places that germinating principle in the seed. But the farmer has an important part to act, for if left to itself the seed will never sprout.

“Man has his part to act in promoting the growth of the grain. He must prepare and enrich the soil and cast in the seed. He must till the fields. But there is a point beyond which he can accomplish nothing. ... As in the natural, so in the spiritual sowing; the teacher of truth must seek to prepare the soil of the heart; he must sow the seed; but the power that alone can produce life is from God. There is a point beyond which human effort is in vain. ” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 63, 64.

The success of all soul-winning comes from God alone. However, that does not mean that we don’t have a part to play. Like the farmer, we must cooperate with God in preparing the soil of the heart we want reached so the gospel seed can take root.

What steps can we take to help prepare the soil? 1. Pray

Because it is the Holy Spirit alone that can soften a heart, we must begin to earnestly pray for the friend with whom we would like to do Bible studies. Your prayers allow God to work in their hearts in special ways. Pray that:

- The Holy Spirit will begin to make stronger appeals to their heart.
- Circumstances will occur in their life that will make them feel spiritually unsatisfied.
- Their interest will be piqued regarding Bible topics and themes.

- Opportunities will arise for you to have spiritual conversations with them.
- Satan and his angels will not be allowed to blind their minds so the “light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.” 2 Corinthians 4:4.

2. Deepen Your Friendship

You may already be friends, but seek to become an even better friend to them. Be intentional about spending time together. Listen and be there when they need you. Show them through your actions that you value them as a friend and that you seek their best good always. Do what

you can to gain their trust and respect. Be willing to take risks to get closer to them.

3. Show Love

Paul tells us that our aim should be “love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.” 1 Timothy 1:5, ESV. If you have spent time with God in prayer seeking heart preparation for this ministry, the love you show will come from a pure heart, good conscience, and sincere faith. Otherwise, the “love” you show will really be sentimental and self-centered. Ask God how you can show love to your friend in a way that will soften their heart to the gospel message. Remember that you can show love without saying “I love you”. In fact, the best ways are to be accepting, be available, be sympathetic, be a good listener,

10

and be a giver of both material and immaterial gifts. These are powerful tools to soften a person’s heart to receive the gospel.

“Their hearts may be as hard as the beaten highway, and apparently it may be a useless effort to present the Saviour to them; but while logic may fail to move, and argument be powerless to convince, the love of Christ, revealed in personal ministry, may soften the stony heart, so that the seed of truth can take root.”
Christ's Object Lessons, p. 57.

4. Sow a Few Test Seeds

Before you ask your friend to study the Bible with you, throw out a few test seeds. Introduce something spiritual in one of your conversations or give them some small piece of literature that might spark an interest. If they respond positively, look for another opportunity to throw out a test seed. After doing this a few times, you will know if they are ready for something deeper or still need time. Here are some test seeds you can try:

- **Give a piece of spiritual literature** as a gift for a holiday, special occasion, or just because. Pick something you think they will enjoy reading. Avoid something that is heavy in doctrine. Remember this gift is to help pique their interest in Bible study, not turn them away. Be sure to write in the inside cover a short, heartfelt note. See the appendix of this manual for ideas on types of literature you can give and how to use them.
- **Share a Bible promise** with them related to a situation they are currently facing. If possible, open your Bible up and show them the promise. Tell them you will be claiming it for them. Ask them if they would like you to pray right then that God would fulfill His Word in their behalf.
- **Mention a Bible verse or topic** you have recently read or studied in one of your shared conversations. Tell them what you discovered and how meaningful it was to you. Speak enthusiastically as you tell them that there are so many amazing gems found in Scripture.

- **Share a portion of your testimony story** with them. Focus on what Jesus did in your life and the difference it has made. Be sure to emphasize the important role Bible study had in your conversion and subsequent walk with Jesus.
 - **Ask about their religious background.** Did they grow up going to church? Have they ever read the Bible? Do they get much time to read it?
 - **Loan them a video or tape** to watch or listen to. Be careful to not give them something that is going to make them defensive. Remember you want to sow a seed that makes them thirsty for more.
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Make each experience positive. You don't want to overwhelm them with heavy information or make them feel crowded or preached at. The temptation will be to become excited and "load it on " as soon as you see a positive response. Resist that temptation! You must pace yourself. Try to get them to take Bible studies before sharing controversial topics with them. In this case, little said is better than much said too soon.

As you sow your little seeds, remember that –

“ The good seed may for a time lie unnoticed in a cold, selfish, worldly heart, giving no evidence that it has taken root; but afterward, as the Spirit of God breathes on the soul, the hidden seed springs up, and at last bears fruit to the glory of God. In our lifework we know not which shall prosper, this or that. This is not a question for us to settle. We are to do our work, and leave the results with God. ‘In the morning sow thy seed, and in the

evening withhold not thine hand.' Eccl. 11:6. ” *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 65.

11

Inviting Your Friend to Study

Your friend has responded positively to the test seeds you have sowed. You know this is because you have been praying for him/her. Now you want to invite them to study, but you wonder how to ask them. What should you say?

First of all, there are no magical words for every situation. Only God can give you wisdom as to what to say. But when you go about to ask them, remember the following:

- Speak enthusiastically and positively.
- Be clear about what you are asking.
- Describe the benefits they will receive.
- Show that you are sensitive to their unique situation (busy schedule, home life, etc.)
- Assume that they will say “YES!”
- RELAX!

Here are some sample invitations that may give you some ideas as to what you can say for your situation:

1. *“Lately I have been feeling the need to know my Bible much more than I do. I got this new set of Bible study guides to help me better understand the great themes of Scripture. I really don’t want to do them by myself and I thought of you. Would you be interested in studying them with me? It would be so much more fun that way.”*
2. *“You and I recently had a discussion about our need to know God better. This year I’ve decided to make that a special focus of mine, and so I’m going to be spending extra time studying my Bible. I know this is your desire too. What would you say to the idea of you and me getting together once a week to study the Bible?”*
3. *“Do you study the Bible much? Yea, I know how busy life can be. You know, I just came across a set of Bible study guides that help busy people to get a lot of Scripture. They also answer the most commonly asked questions about the Bible. I have a sample copy, and if you are interested I’ll bring it by to show you.”*
4. *“The other morning I was doing some Bible study of this chapter in the book of Daniel where God accurately predicts 2500 years of world history, proving why we can really trust the Bible. It was so fascinating! I just want to share it with someone!! Would you be willing for us to meet this week so I could share with you what I discovered? It will blow your mind!!”*
5. *‘We’ve been talking about all the crazy things happening in this world – the weather, violence, the break-down of morals in our society. When I read my Bible, I’m convinced that these are all signs that Jesus is coming soon. The books of Daniel and Revelation tell us what to expect and how to prepare for it. Have you studied these books much? If you*

are interested, I have a really great set of Bible study guides that explain these books. We could go through them together.”

12

1. *[For a new Christian] “I’m so excited that you have begun your journey with Jesus! When I first became a Christian, I found it really important to spend time in God’s Word. Here I found answers to all my questions about life. I have a set of Bible lessons designed for busy people that would really help you as you begin to study your Bible. I’ll bring a sample copy by for you to see, and if you are interested we go through them together.”*
2. *“I am currently taking a class to help me learn the Bible better. I am learning a lot and enjoying it. Part of the course involves sharing the Bible with others. A special set of Bible study guides have been designed for me to give to others. The guides are written so that people of all faiths can enjoy them. They are colorful, informative, and inspirational. They cover topics that are of interest to most people—If God is so good, why is the world so bad?, What does the Bible have to say about our day, and many others. Do you think this is something you can help me with?”*
3. *[Prior to an evangelistic series] “I recently heard about a seminar on Bible prophecy and how it relates to today that is coming to town soon. There are some Bible study guides that people are going through before the meetings. These studies will help me better understand the Bible and prepare for the meetings. If you have an interest in this type of thing, I’m happy to get you the free guides as well. We could even do them together. What do you think?”*

As you can see, there are many different ways you can invite a friend to take Bible studies. These just provide ideas for you to use in scripting your own invitation. Even if it doesn't come out like you had wanted, God can still use it!

You may have noticed that some of the invitations above specifically asked if they would like to meet with you to study the Bible. Others asked for less initial commitment. My experience is that even if the person only agrees to take the lessons and do them on their own, they may decide later to do personal Bible studies. You can give a more specific invitation when you think it is best.

Once your friend agrees to study with you, **set a time, date, and location** for the Bible study.

Denominational Concerns

Sometimes a person is leery about taking Bible studies because they think you are going to seek to convert them to your church, or, they are not sure if you are safe to study with because they don't know you (as in the case of a media interest contact). They might think you are a Mormon or Jehovah's Witness. It is important at the beginning to address these concerns. Sometimes I will do so even before they voice them as though I anticipated this might be a question of theirs.

13

Purpose of Our Studies

Some people want to know why you want to study with them. They may wonder if you have a hidden agenda. If they are a friend of yours, hopefully you have already demonstrated to them that you desire their well-being in everything. While you hope they will be a member of your church in the future, this cannot be the only and even main reason why you study with them. Salvation does

not come from belonging to a certain church – even the Adventist church. Salvation comes only through a relationship with Christ.

- Your **primary purpose** then is to make them a **follower of Christ**—not a follower of a church!
- Your **secondary purpose** is to teach **them how to study the Bible for themselves** so they are not dependent on their minister, priest, family, or friends to tell them what the Bible says.
- Your **third purpose** is to experience the fellowship of studying the Bible with another believer and growing together in the Word.

If you state these purposes, you will set them completely at ease. In the final analysis, these are the ultimate purposes for every Bible study. Because if they are following Christ and studying the Word for themselves, the Holy Spirit will be able to guide them to His church.

“Which Church Do You Attend?”

If I am inviting someone to take Bible studies that I really don’t know, for example an *Amazing Facts* Bible school student or someone I met doing a neighborhood survey, I won’t tell them which church I attend unless I am asked. The reason is because it is really immaterial and it could create premature prejudice.

However, if I am asked, I could answer in one of two ways:

- “I attend the __(*name of my church*)__ here in __(*name of town*)__.”
- “I attend a church I am very proud of, and I don’t mind sharing with you where I like to attend but my main purpose is to encourage you to follow the Bible – not churches. I assure you that I am a Bible-believing Christian who believes that Jesus Christ is God, and came to this world and died on the cross to pay the penalty for our

sins. I believe that as you take God's Word and through study follow it, God leads His children to the church where they need to be. Are you comfortable with this?"

If I am following up on a lead card from a ministry like *Amazing Facts* or distributing their lessons, I could say:

- "I am partnering with a Christian ministry called Amazing Facts. They provide Bible study resources for people of all different faiths. They are the ones that produced these materials."

To answer in any of these ways is not deceptive. We are told in the Spirit of Prophecy –

"In laboring in a new field, do not think it your duty to say at once to the people, We are Seventh-day Adventists; we believe that the seventh day is the Sabbath; we believe in the non-immortality of the soul. This would often erect a formidable barrier between you and

those you wish to reach. Speak to them, as you have opportunity, upon points of doctrine on which you can agree. Dwell on the necessity of practical godliness. Give them evidence that you are a Christian, desiring peace, and that you love their souls. Let them see that you are conscientious. Thus you will gain their confidence; and there will be time enough for doctrines. Let the heart be won, the soil prepared, and then sow the seed, presenting in love the truth as it is in Jesus." *Gospel Workers*, p. 119, 120

Don't ever be ashamed for being a Seventh-day Adventist! It is something you can actually be proud of. So if a person really wants to know where you attend church, tell them:

- “I personally attend the Adventist Church. I’ve made this choice because I’ve found their teachings to be in harmony with the Bible. That is what I feel is important—the Bible, not what a church teaches.”

But also recognize that we must be wise as serpents. You don’t want to create unnecessary prejudice before you have an opportunity to gain their trust. God will give you wisdom to know what to say and when.

Getting Started

You have a Bible study scheduled for next week with your friend. Now what?

Choose a Set of Lessons

Printed lessons are not necessary for giving Bible studies, but they are very helpful, especially for beginners. They give you, as the teacher, a recommended order of topics, an outline for each topic, key verses, and a sample appeal question. They help the student by providing them with something additional to read and study on the topic.

The Adventist church has produced many different sets of Bible study guides over the years and new ones are being produced all the time. Browsing through a variety of lessons, reveals that most sets fall into one of three categories: Christian growth, topical/doctrinal, or prophecy. While there is some overlap, usually the lessons = have a certain overarching theme. Following are examples of these different types:

Christian Growth

- *Come Alive with Jesus!*

- *Peace is an Inside Job* by Kurt Johnson
- *Steps to Eternal Life*
- *FAST Basic Training* by FAST Missions
Topical/Doctrinal
- *Stay Alive with Jesus!*
- *Amazing Facts Bible Study Guides*
- *Amazing Facts Storacles*
- *Search for Certainty* by Mark Finley, *It Is Written*
- *20th Century Bible Course*
- *Good News for Today*

15

- *In His Word* by Don and Marjorie Gray
- *Discover* by Voice of Prophecy

- *KidZone* (ages 7-13) by Voice of Prophecy
Prophecy
- *Prophecy Seminar* by Seminars Unlimited
- *Revelation Seminar* by Seminars Unlimited
- *Unsealing Daniel's Mysteries* by It Is Written
- *Prophecies of Hope* by Gary Gibbs

Topical lessons are the most common form of Bible lessons. Each doctrine is covered in one or two lessons. Because each lesson is a succinct unit and can stand alone, you can easily rearrange the order of lessons or jump from topic to topic. The possible disadvantage of this is that with the lessons disconnected, objections can more easily arise over controversial topics because they are not presented within a larger framework. Also often these lesson sets don't have much Bible prophecy included.

Thematic lessons are based on a certain theme like Christian growth or Bible prophecy. This theme connects one lesson to the next, usually building toward a climax. Each topic becomes a puzzle piece in this larger picture. For example, a set of lessons like *Prophecy Seminar* or *Prophecies of Hope* presents the testing truths like the Antichrist, Law, and the Sabbath in the backdrop of the great controversy theme between Christ and Satan. Because of this, it is able to circumvent typical arguments over law-keeping because the reasons for Satan's attack against God's law is clearly seen in prophecy. The importance of obeying God's law becomes very clear in this setting of the great controversy between Christ and Satan. Thematic lessons also contain Biblical stories and themes that provide constant motivation for decisions.

Which lesson should you choose? Make this decision based on the person's level of Bible

knowledge and interest level. It may be good to start a new Christian out on the *Come Alive* and *Stay Alive* lessons. Someone intrigued with Bible prophecy and end time events would probably really enjoy a prophecy-based set of lessons like *Prophecies of Hope*. A person with many questions about the Bible, may do best with a topical set of studies which would allow you to skip around some. If you are not sure which lesson to use, try one and see how they like it, or you can show them a couple lessons, explain the differences, and allow them to choose. Be careful, however, to not overwhelm them with options!

Must you always use a published set of lessons? No! Lessons are just tools to help the Bible instructor and the student. All you really need to give a Bible study is your Bible. In fact, there are times when you won't be able to find a printed lesson that covers the topic you want to study with your friend. Or you may want to put together your own study that better meets their needs or questions. It is best if we can each learn how to give a Bible study by just opening God's Word and leading people to the appropriate texts.

16

Choose a Method of Presentation

Think of a personal or group Bible study you have attended in the past. How was it conducted? Maybe the leader led out in a study only using their Bible. Maybe it was a Sabbath School format where everyone had studied a written lesson prior and now were sharing what they had learned. Maybe the participants in the study went through a written lesson together and filled in the blanks as they went. As you can see, there are many ways a Bible study can be presented and each can be highly effective. Choosing which method you want to use in your Bible study will depend on your level of comfort or the results you want.

Method #1 – Fill out the lesson together

- Each of you have a blank copy of the lesson guide and you read through it, answering the questions as you go.
- Easiest method for giving a Bible study.
- Good for people who struggle with reading comprehension.
- Good for people who easily get distracted and off on tangents.
- Allows you to expound on the questions and answers as you go through it.
- Could seem elementary for more advanced Bible students.

Method #2 – Review the completed lesson

- Student has completed the lesson during the week and your study time is to review the highlights, answer questions, and make an appeal.
- Easy method for giving a Bible study.
- Allows student to begin having their own personal Bible study time during the week as they work on their lesson and thus encourages daily devotions.
- Allows instructor to pull out key points from the lesson and to find out if the student understood them.

- May require explanation of parts of the lesson that were not understood.
- Allows more freedom of discussion of the points in the lesson because there is not the hurry of completing the lesson.
- When the lesson covers potentially controversial topics such as the Sabbath, Second Coming, Death, etc., there is a slight possibility the person may come to the study with objections or major questions.

Method #3 –Topic studied only using your Bible with the help of Instructor's Notes

- Instructor introduces topic and begins study taking student on a search of Scriptures. Instructor may use handwritten or type-written notes or a chain reference method marked in their Bible. These notes may be your own written down or prepared lessons like the *Winsome Studies in Bible Prophecy* instructor notes. These notes match the *Prophecies of Hope* Bible study guides.
- Used by more experienced Bible instructors.
- Does not require printed lessons.
- Focus is just on the Scriptures.
- Allows the instructor the most flexibility by being able to use their own written Bible study or adapting a printed study to the individual's needs.
- Instructor can be the first to introduce the topic, explaining it as they wish and answering potential questions.

- Works well for a large group study.
- Printed lessons or handouts can be distributed following the study for additional study or a homework assignment to review what was studied.

I am currently using each one of these methods of presentation in my Bible studies. The key is to pick a method that is comfortable to you and provides the results you want. Experiment and learn. In time you will find a method that works best for you or a certain individual. But remember that the student is going to appreciate the study no matter which method you use.

Study the Topic in Advance

Before giving a Bible study, be familiar with the content of the lesson you will present.

If you are using a printed lesson, read through it a few times and know the answers to each question. Anticipate questions your friend might have about the lesson and how you might answer them. Think of illustrations and/or stories from your own experience that might help explain concepts in the lesson. Decide if the appeal question is one you want to use, and if not, write your own.

If using prepared instructor notes like the *Winsome Studies in Bible Prophecy* notes, read through the notes several times to make sure you understand the content. You want to be comfortable enough with the material that you can present it without reading it from the paper. The notes are just to help jog your memory. Make any adaptations you think necessary to help you clearly present the topic.

If you choose to write your own lesson, follow these practical suggestions:

- **Decide upon your subject.** This selection should be based on (a) the needs of the hearers, (b) respect to the proper sequence of thought, (c) the occasion.
- **Gather suitable texts.** Pull from your own memory, a concordance, or a book on Bible doctrines.
- **Build a framework.** The following is a suggested outline for putting together a logical flowing study:
 1. ❖ Introduction – Ask a question or make a statement that introduces the topic for that study. You may want to say why this topic is an important one to study.
 2. ❖ Body – Divide the topic into logical headings and subheadings of questions and Bible verse answers. For example:
 - *Theme*: The second coming of Christ
 - *Divisions*: (1) The promise of Christ's return, (2) The signs of Christ's return, (3) The manner of Christ's return, (4) The purpose of Christ's return.
 3. ❖ Conclusion – End with a summary statement of the main points of the lesson.
 4. ❖ Appeal Question – Write a question you can ask them that will help them to personally apply this lesson to their lives.
- **Keep these tips in mind.**
 - Limit the number of texts to a few. You can keep extras in reserve.

➤ Use texts that are definite and crystal clear in answering the question. Avoid those that bring up irrelevant subjects.

18

1. ➤ Arrange the texts so they fit link by link and lead to a definite and clear conclusion.
2. ➤ Prepare questions in such a way that the reader will recognize the clear answer to your question as he reads the text.
3. ➤ Be knowledgeable on your topic, but do not attempt to tell all you know on the subject at one time.

Whatever method of presentation you decide to use, it would be well to practice giving the Bible study first so you are comfortable with the material and your method of presentation.

Begin Praying

As you study ask God to fill your mind with the thoughts He wants you to share in your study. Also pray that God will begin to prepare the heart of your friend for the study.

“Let us also pray earnestly in behalf of those whom we expect to visit, by living faith bringing them, one by one, into the presence of God. The Lord knows the thought and purposes of man, and how easily He can melt us! “How His Spirit, like a fire, can subdue the flinty heart! How He can fill the soul with love and tenderness! How He can give us the graces of His Holy Spirit, and fit us to go in and out, in laboring for souls!” *Christian Service*, p. 169

Giving the Bible Study

You have arrived at your friend’s home or some other location you have both chosen for your study. What should you do now?

- **Begin with a pleasant, informal visit of 5 minutes or so.** This is a great time to catch up on their week and just connect. You want to do your socialization at the beginning of the visit rather than at the end.
- **Begin the study with prayer.** Maybe take a prayer request. Ask the Holy Spirit to be the teacher and guide in your study.
- **Introduce the topic for that study.** Briefly explain why this topic is important to study.
- **Follow one of the methods of presentation listed above.**
- **During the study allow your friend to take part as much as he/she likes by:**
 - Responding to your questions.
 - Looking up and reading texts if they are comfortable.
 - Asking questions of you.
- **At the end of the study ask questions that “clear and set” your friend making sure he/she understood the subject.**
 1. ➤ “Can you see from our study of the signs of Jesus’ coming that His coming is very soon?”
 2. ➤ “Do you understand now why God could not destroy the devil and had to allow him to demonstrate his way of running things?”
 3. ➤ “Is it clear to you that the Bible method for baptism is immersion?”

- **Conclude the study by making a short appeal.**

- “Judy, is it your desire to spend time each day studying the Bible?” 19

1. ➤ “Tom, in this great controversy between Christ and Satan, is it your desire to be on the winning side with Jesus?”
2. ➤ “Steve, we’ve learned today the importance of the seventh-day Sabbath to God. Would you like to experience this special day with Jesus by coming to church with me this Saturday?”

- **Close with a prayer that incorporates their decision.**

1. ➤ “Jesus, we thank you for your Word. And this evening Judy and I have decided that we want to be spend time in your Word each day getting to know you. Help us to find the time each day to do that.”
2. ➤ “Jesus, we have seen in our study that there has been a controversy between Christ and Satan since the very beginning. Tom and I choose to be on your side in this battle. Give us the wisdom to daily choose your ways.”
3. ➤ “Jesus, we want to thank you that you gave us the gift of the weekly Sabbath because you desire to build a relationship with us. I ask that you will bless Steve as He seeks to deepen his relationship with you by beginning to keep your holy Sabbath day.”

- **Give your friend their next lesson guide to study during the coming week or some Bible passage to read.**

- **Confirm the day and time of your appointment for the following week.**
- **Wish your friend a great week and leave.** Do your best to not stay long after the study. You want the material they've studied and the commitment they've just made to remain in their mind after you leave. Too much trivial conversation afterward can lessen the impact the Holy Spirit is making to their heart.

Making Appeals

Most lesson guides end with an appeal question. Why is it so important to ask a decision question at the conclusion of every Bible study? The answer lies in the need for every person to have an opportunity to respond to the truth in God's Word. The Holy Spirit speaks to the heart through the Word and if a person is not given an opportunity to respond to that appeal they likely will not. Appeal questions help them to internalize and apply what they have learned in the Bible study. This is why we are told—

“At the close of every meeting, decisions should be called for.” *Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 65, 65.* “In every discourse fervent appeals should be made to the people to forsake their sins and turn to Christ.” *Testimonies, vol. 4, p. 396.*

“It is the work of the Holy Spirit to convince the soul of its need of Christ. Many are convicted of sin, and feel their need of a sin-pardoning Saviour; but they are merely dissatisfied with their pursuits and aims, and if there is not a decided application of the truth to their hearts, if words are not spoken at the right moment, calling for decision from the weight of evidence already presented, the convicted ones pass on without identifying themselves with Christ, the golden opportunity passes, and they have not yielded, and they go farther and farther away from the truth, farther away from Jesus and never take their stand on the Lord's side.” *Evangelism, p. 283.*

At the end of every Bible study ask a decision question that relates to the topic that was studied, allowing them to make a personal decision for Jesus and the truth in His Word.

Daniel 2 – *Is it your desire to enter Christ's kingdom, when He returns? Let's tell Jesus about your desire.*

Daniel 3 – *Jesus is looking for a people who love Him enough that they will stand faithful for Him in the last days. Do you want to tell Jesus that you want to be faithful like those three young men were?*

Daniel 8 – *Is it your desire to ask Jesus to guide you into all truth so no errors or false teachings are standing between you and Him?*

Sabbath – *Is it your desire to keep holy God's seventh-day Sabbath because you love Him and want to take this time to develop a deeper relationship with Him?*

Judgment – *Do wish for Jesus to be your lawyer in the judgment that is now going on in heaven?*

Hell – *Are you thankful that we serve a merciful and just God who will destroy sin and sinners, but will not punish them throughout all eternity?*

Mark of the Beast – *Is it your desire to avoid the mark of the beast by beginning now to develop a strong personal relationship with God through daily Bible study and prayer and a regular keeping of God's seventh-day Sabbath on Saturday?*

Remember these important steps in making appeals:

- Plan your appeal in advance – it is the most important part of the study!
- Tailor it to that Bible study interest.
- Don't hesitate to ask!

- Affirm their decision with an appropriate prayer.
- When appropriate, them to pray and express to Jesus their commitment.
Two books which contain much helpful information on making appeals in Bible studies are *Persuasion* by Mark Finley and *Gaining Decisions* by Louis Torres.

Distractions, Questions, and Other Challenges

In this section we will briefly look at some of the possible challenges faced when giving a Bible study.

Distractions

Remember that the devil is not happy that you are giving Bible studies. If he cannot stop you, he will seek to send some kind of distraction to impact your study. This is why you must be diligent in praying before you go to the study and silently while you are in the study. Here are some common distractions and how you might overcome them.

- **Television** – Before you begin the study, kindly ask, “Would it be okay if we muted the TV?” In most cases, they will apologize and turn it off.

- **Children** – Find out if you can study at a time when the children are either at school or napping. If this is not an option, see about bringing a friend that can play with the children while you study with mom or dad. If the children are old enough to understand, ask if they would like to join you. I have many times studied the book of Daniel with mothers and their children telling the stories in ways the children could visualize them and then pulling out age-appropriate lessons for both mom and child.

- **Visitors** – If a neighbor or friend stops in during your study, pause for a moment to allow your friend to handle the situation. If it appears that the person wants to stay and listen, welcome them and do a very short recap to let them know what you are studying. If the topic is a heavy one (like the mark of the beast or the true church), ask God how you should proceed. You may choose to wait to make a strong appeal till your next study than so as not to make them uncomfortable in front of their friend. In cases where the house becomes too full of commotion and your friend cannot concentrate, ask if they would like to resume the study at a later time.
- **Food** – It is quite common to be offered something to drink. You can reply, “A glass of water would be fine.” It is best to avoid being fed food. This could distract from the study, make them feel obligated to always provide you with food when you come, and it could prematurely bring up dietary issues like unclean foods.

Questions

It is important to allow your friend to ask questions during the Bible study. This shows that they are engaged and mentally processing the topic. If someone asks a difficult question, try one or all of these approaches:

3. **Affirm them.** *“That’s a very good question.”*
4. **Defer to a later time.** *“We are going to have a whole study on this subject a little later. If you don’t mind, can we discuss it more thoroughly at that time?”*
5. **Bounce the question back to the student.** *“That’s a good question. But I am curious why you ask it. What do you think about it?”*

6. **Show them how to find the answer for themselves.** *“Would you like me to show you how you can find the answer using a Bible and concordance?”*
7. **Admit you don’t know.** *“That’s a good question. But to tell you the truth I’ve not thought about that one before. Give me a little time to research what the Bible has to say. Ok? You don’t want my opinion anyway, do you?”*
8. **Recognize that some questions don’t have answers.** *“I think this is one of those questions where people have their opinions but the Bible doesn’t clearly address it. We may have to wait for heaven for the answer.”*
9. **Don’t agree or disagree.** *“That’s an interesting point,” or “I’ve not thought of it that way before.”*
10. **Don’t assume they believe an objection that was voiced to them.** Listen and ask, *“How did you respond to that comment?” or “What do you think about that?”*

Sometimes you might need to answer a question without disclosing all the information on that subject because to do so would be premature. Recently, I was studying John 3 with a Christian lady when the part about being baptized of water and the Spirit led her to ask me a question. *“Staci, in my Sunday school class someone said you must speak in tongues if you are filled with the Spirit. Must all believers speak in tongues if they baptized with the Spirit?”*

I decided now was not an appropriate time to address the entire issue of tongue-speaking and whether the common manifestation is biblical or not. However, I wanted to give her a satisfactory answer. I began with sharing where I agree with her. *“Ethel, it is true that speaking in tongues is one of the gifts of the Spirit. Let’s go look at a 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.”* As we turned to the passage I asked her if she spoke in tongues and she said she did. She asked me if I did and I told her I did not and that this passage explains why. *“Notice here that it says to one is given a certain gift and to another a different gift but it is the ‘Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.’ This means that not everyone will have all the gifts. To say that everyone who has the Holy Spirit must speak in tongues, would be to say that everyone who has the Holy Spirit must also heal people and work miracles. But this is not what the verse teaches. The Spirit gives different gifts to different people.”*

This answer completely satisfied her for the present. I was able to answer her question Biblically without bringing up all the related topics. That will wait for a future study.

Answering Difficult Bible Texts

In giving Bible studies, you may occasionally be asked a question about a Bible verse that stumps you. It might be one of those texts that is often misinterpreted by other churches. The first thing to remember is that, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God.” (2 Timothy 3:16). There are answers for those questions that seem to contradict the rest of the Bible. The way to find the answers is:

- 1. Pray for the Holy Spirit to enlighten your mind.** Spiritual things are spiritually discerned.
- 2. Claim the promise that He will guide you into all truth.** (John 16:13). If you really want to know truth, you will find it.

3. **Read the verse or passage in its context.** Often this answers the question.
4. **Study the subject throughout the Bible in a systematic way.** (Isaiah 28:10). Compare scripture with scripture. Use your chain reference or a concordance.
5. **Read as much as you can about the subject.** Look in commentaries, Joe Crew's book *Answers to Difficult Bible Texts*, and other sources.
6. **Look up words in the concordance to find their original meaning.** Read the passage in several different translations.
7. **Use the Bible to answer the question.** Give verses as proof, not your own opinion.
8. **Use quotations from other authors sparingly.** We are to be people of the Book!
9. **Present your answer in a humble way.** Never argue!
10. **Be willing to admit you don't know the answer.** Then promise to research it and come back with a satisfactory Bible answer.

See the appendix for a worksheet for applying these principles to answer some difficult texts.

There is no decision more important for a person to make than to accept Christ as Lord and Savior of their life. Leading your friend to make this decision has to be the #1 purpose for your Bible studies. If this is neglected they may become a tithe-paying, Sabbath-keeping, vegetarian but without conversion they will be lost.

“The very first and most important thing is to melt and subdue the soul by presenting our Lord Jesus Christ as the sin-pardoning Saviour. Never should a sermon be preached, or Bible instruction in any line be given, without pointing the hearers to the “Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” John 1:29. Every true doctrine makes Christ the center, every precept receives force from His words.” *Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 53, 54

At some point in your Bible study, you need to ask your friend if they have invited Christ to be their Lord and Savior. Never neglect this even if you think they have made that decision. If they have, it will only reconfirm their decision. A good time to do this may be at the conclusion of a Bible study on Salvation or the Second Coming. The following is an outline of what you can say.

THE QUESTION

1 John 5:11-13 – Says we can know that we have eternal life. Question: “Do you have the assurance that you have eternal life?”

If the answer is “Yes!”

Affirm their answer. “That’s wonderful! I am so thankful you have that assurance.” **Ask the reason why.** “Why do you have that assurance?”

Correct Answer: Because of what Christ has done for them and their acceptance of

His grace. “You have the right answer.”

Incorrect Answer: Focus on their trying to do good, not having lived a bad life, etc.

Explain how assurance can only come through acceptance of Christ’s righteousness.

If the answer is “No.”

“Thank you for being so honest. Would you like to have the assurance that you have eternal life? (If they say “yes”...) Let us look at some Bible verses that can help you to find that assurance.”

THE GOSPEL PRESENTATION

God’ Plan for Man – Happiness and joy

John 10:10 – God loves you and created you to enjoy an abundant life of peace and happiness.

So why don’t most people experience the abundant life?

Man’s Condition – We are sinners

24

Romans 3:23 – All have sinned

Romans 3:10 – There is none righteous Romans 6:23 – The penalty for sin is death

We are sinful and our sins have separated us from the abundant life God designed for us. We don’t have the power to change ourselves.

God’s Son – God’s gift of love

John 3:16 – God gave His Son

Romans 5:8 – He died for us while we were His enemy Hebrews 2:14, 15 – He wants to deliver us from sin

Jesus came and lived as a man so that He could break the power of sin and selfishness in our hearts. He showed us what God is really like and by His death He offers us again an abundant and eternal life with Him.

Our part – Personally to ask Jesus to forgive our sins and to live in our lives. Acts 16:30, 31 – We must believe that He can save us

Acts 2:37, 38 – We must repent of our sins

1 John 1:9 – We must confess of our sins

John 1:12, Revelation 3:20 – We must invite Christ into our heart

Then we will experience God's plans for us, not only in this earth, but also in Heaven. We can then have the assurance that we have new and eternal life through Him.

THE COMMITMENT PRAYER

Decision Questions

“Is there any reason why you couldn't receive Jesus into your life right now?”

“Is there any reason why you can't tell God right now that you want that kind of relationship Him?”

“Would you like me to lead you in a prayer where you can have the assurance that Jesus is your Savior and Lord?”

Prayer of Commitment

F “Jesus, I ask You to **Forgive me** of my sins.”

A “Please **Accept my confession** that I am a sinner worthy of death.”

I “**I now give my life** completely to you.”

T “**Thank you** for the free gift of salvation that is now mine by faith in Jesus’ death and life.”

H “Now, **Help me to walk** in all Your ways by Your grace and power.”

25

GROWTH IN CHRIST

“Now that we have prayed and you have accepted Christ as your personal Savior, you now have special access to God through the Holy Spirit. He will be your guide and companion.”

John 14:16, 17 – Comforter and companion

John 16:13 – Guide into truth

Philippians 1:6 – The work He has begun in you He will finish

“Now God wants you to become a follower of Him. “Every morning and evening, invite Christ again into your life and spend some time reading from His Word and talking to Him.”

John 5:39 – Study the Scriptures daily

1 Peter 2:21 – Imitate the example of Jesus

Hebrews 10:25 – Fellowship with believers who are seeking to follow Christ

(The above is adapted from the book *Winsome Witnessing* by Gary Gibbs, and the *Lay Bible Ministry Training Manual* by Loren Nelson, Michigan Conference Ministerial Director.)

Pointers for Gaining Decisions

1. Know the Four Levels of Decisions.

- **Information—Do they have adequate information to make a right decision?**
- **Conviction—Do they sense the rightness of an appropriate action or the guilt of not taking that action?**
- **Desire—Do they see the benefit or right doing, the consequence of wrongdoing, and the influence that the action will have upon others?**
- **Action—Have you asked for a decision?**

2. Look for decision signals that tell you a person is convicted and ready to move if their faith can be strengthened enough to overcome their fears.

- *I wish my husband were more agreeable to my becoming an Adventist.*
- *I wonder if I would lose my job if I asked for the Sabbath off?*
- *I have some tithe to give you.*
- *Would I have to quit ... (smoking, wearing jewelry, etc.)?*
- *What would I do all day Saturday?*

- *What will my friends think of me?*
- *How can I be sure the Lord will accept me?*
- *How many Bible studies must I take before I am ready?*
- *How long does it take to prepare for baptism?*
- *I am not sure my faith is strong enough.*

26

1. **Speak to their heart more than their intellect. Let them feel that you genuinely care about them and want them to make a choice that is for their best interest.**
“After the meetings are through, there should be a personal investigation with each one on the ground. Each one should be asked how he is going to take these things, if he is going to make a personal application of them. And then you should watch and see if there is an interest in this one or that. Five words spoken to them privately will do more than the whole discourse has done.” *Evangelism*, p. 285
2. **Make every appeal focus on Jesus.**
 - *Jesus invites you to keep His Sabbath day holy to show your love for Him. (John 14:15). Would like to tell Jesus right now, ‘I love you and want to demonstrate it by keeping your Sabbath?’*

- *Jesus is calling you, to enter into His one true fold (John 10:16). Will you heed His voice and become part of His remnant, last day church?*
“Pray with these souls, by faith bringing them to the foot of the cross; carry their minds up with your mind, and fix the eye of faith where you look, upon Jesus the Sin Bearer. Get them to look away from their poor, sinful selves to the Saviour, and the victory is won.” *Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 67

3. Know the four different basic appeals.

- **The greatness of God’s love – John 3:16**
- **The influence of their example – Romans 14:7**
- **The power of choice – Matthew 7:13, 14**
- **The danger of delay – Matthew 25:10; 2 Corinthians 6:2**

4. Have clearly in mind the decision you will ask for.

“As you present testing truth, ask often, who is now willing, as they have heard the words of God, pointing out their duty, to consecrate their hearts and minds, with all their affections, to Christ Jesus.” *Evangelism*, p. 284

5. Ask diagnostic questions to determine what hinders them.

- *What do you think about what we learned in our study today? Was it new to you?*

- *Do any questions on this topic come to your mind?*
- *Do you understand that Bible baptism is by immersion?*
- *Have you ever thought about being baptized?*
- *Would anything hinder you from being baptized?*
- *Have you always understood what the Bible teaches about (death, hell, etc.)?*
- *How do you feel about the concept of the Lord's day being Saturday?*
- *Have you thought about keeping the Bible Sabbath?*
- *Does your job require you to work on Saturdays?*
- *Is anything preventing you from keeping the Bible Sabbath?*
- *How does your family feel about the changes in your life and your decision to follow Christ and become a part of His remnant people?*

27

- *If this issue was cleared up, would you then see your way clear to accept Christ [etc.]? Is this the only thing holding you back?*

“The sacred responsibility rests upon the minister to watch for souls as one that must give an account. He must interest himself in the souls for whom he labors, finding out all that perplexes and troubles them and hinders them from walking in the light of the truth.” *Review and Herald*, August 30, 1892, par. 6.

“Many a laborer fails in his work because he does not come close to those who most need his help. With the Bible in hand, he should seek in a courteous manner to learn the objections which exist in the minds of those who are beginning to inquire, "What is truth?" Carefully and tenderly should he lead and educate them, as pupils in a school. Many have to unlearn theories which they have long believed to be truth. As they become convinced that they have been in error concerning Bible subjects, they are thrown into perplexity and doubt. They need the tenderest sympathy and the most judicious help; they should be carefully instructed, and should be prayed for and prayed with, watched and guarded with the kindest solicitude.” *Gospel Workers*, p. 190, 191

1. Meet objections with texts, not arguments. The power is in the Word!

- ***This step will cost me too much.* Luke 18:28-30; Matthew 16:24-27**
- ***I can't leave my church.* Revelation 18:4; John 10:14-16, 27; 12:42, 43; Matthew 7:21-27.**
- ***I will lose my job if I keep the Sabbath.* Matthew 16:25, 26; 1 Timothy 4:8; Psalm 119:172.**
- ***I can't make a living if I keep the Sabbath.* Matthew 6:25, 26, 33; Psalm 37:3, 25; 34:10; Deuteronomy 30:19, 20; Job 23:10-12.**

- *My family is opposing me.* Matthew 10:34-37 Luke 14:25-27; Luke 12:49-53.
- *There is something I can't give up (alcohol, tobacco, jewelry, etc).* Matthew 6:24; 13:45, 46; Luke 14:33; Matthew 19:16-22.
- *I am afraid.* Isaiah 41:10 Psalm 119:57-60.
- *Not now.* Proverbs 27:1; 2 Corinthians 6:2; Hebrews 3:13; Isaiah 55:6; Genesis 6:3; Acts 22:16.
- *I am waiting for my spouse (or friend) so we can do it together.* Ezekiel 14:20; 18:20; Romans 14:12.
- *Some things are not clear yet.* John 12:35; Psalm 119:105, 60; John 13:6-8.
- *God is love. He will save me anyway.* John 14:15; 8:31, 32; 1 John 5:2, 3.
- *I don't believe I need to join a church.* Acts 2:47; 1 Corinthians 12:12, 13; Ephesians 1:22, 23.
- *I am too old to change my ways.* Matthew 20:6, 7; Genesis 6:3.
- *I will wait until the Spirit convinces me.* Acts 5:32; John 16:13; Psalm 119:142.

2. Share Bible promises and stories to increase faith and encourage action.

- **Have them read a promise relevant to their situation.**
- **Share a Bible story that builds faith (crossing of the Red Sea, Fiery Furnace, etc.)**

28

- Tell personal experiences of how God has delivered you when you chose to obey Him at any cost.
- Challenge them to give God an opportunity to work miracles in their life. **10. Ask for a decision using action-oriented questions.**
- *Would you like to accept Jesus' offer of eternal life right now?*
- *Would you like to kneel together and tell God you are thankful (He is coming soon; death is a peaceful sleep and He is the Life Giver; the Sabbath is on Saturday)?*
Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit. *Evangelism*, p. 459

(The information in the above section came from the books *Winsome Witnessing* by Gary Gibbs, *Persuasion* by Mark Finley, and *Light Your World for God* by Ernestine and Mark Finley.)

Getting Your Contacts to Church or an Evangelistic Meeting

As soon as your friend begins to show real interest in your Bible studies and begins accepting the truths in God's word, it is time to invite him/her to church. Especially, should this be done if you have already studied the topic of the Sabbath. Here are some suggestions for inviting them:

- Invite them to a visitor Sabbath or when a guest speaker is doing a special service.
 - Invite them to come hear you preach, do special music, or participate in the service in some other way.
 - Invite them to church and a special meal at your home afterward.
 - Express to them the benefits that you gain from church and why you know they will be blessed by attending.
 - Remind them of individuals they will see at church that they have already met and connected with. This will help them feel like they won't be completely with strangers.
 - Offer to pick them up and bring them. They will be much more likely to come.
- If there is going to be an evangelistic series at your church, it is important to bring your friend. Sometimes it can be difficult to transition someone from the convenience of a home study to a church or auditorium that is unfamiliar. The following is a proven successful way to build your friends interest in the upcoming series and to make sure they attend.

1. Mention the seminar in your initial Bible study offer or by the first or second study.

Mrs. Jones, these studies are introductory lessons to Bible prophecy and are offered for a limited time. I know you will get a lot of out them. In a few weeks, a seminar on Bible prophecy is coming to town. People of all different faith persuasions will be attending.

You will find that these introductory lessons will help you learn the Bible better than ever before. You'll be interested to know that this method of study has been successfully used around the world and is being offered for the first time here in this city by students like me. If you like these studies you will probably enjoy the seminar.

- 1. Make your friend aware of the coming seminar at least six weeks prior to the start date.**
I need to tell you about an exciting seminar that will be coming to town next month. It's going to be a community Bible seminar that people from all religious persuasion will attend. The studies you and I are doing are introductory lessons and are designed to provide a background in Bible prophecy so you will get more out of the public seminar. The public classes will go into more depth and detail as the speaker covers the prophecies relevant for our time. If you like these studies you will really enjoy the seminar!
- 2. After the initial mention, begin "salting the oats" to create anticipation for the seminar:**
 - *Daniel 2 – Margie, you've heard of the rapture haven't you? This is what the Bible is describing here when the Rock smites the image's feet. We don't have time to cover it in our study, but do you remember the seminar I told you about? The speaker is going to teach what the Bible really says about the rapture. A lot of people have questions about whether it will be pre-tribulation or post-tribulation. The seminar speaker will reveal exactly what the Bible says. You don't want to miss it!*
 - *Daniel 3 – We don't have time in these introductory lessons to study what the mark of the beast is but we can look today at the issues revolving around it. But the speaker I told you about will have several presentations on these topics. He will take all the Bible*

says on the beast and chart it on a big screen along with pictures of the beasts from Daniel and Revelation. You will love it when you see how plan he makes it.

- *Daniel 8 – You see that there were many truths cast down to the ground during the time of the Dark Ages and errors that crept into the church. For example, image worship, praying to the saints, confessing your sins to the priest, etc. In fact some doctrines taught in Protestant churches today trace their origin to paganism. We don't have time now to talk about them, but that seminar that begins in a few weeks will uncover many of these errors. It is something you don't want to miss!*

3. Make your student's thirst for the meetings as strong as that of a man's thirst who is lost in the desert for a gushing spring of fresh water. If you succeed in doing this, nothing will keep them from the meetings.

4. Keep mentioning the seminar and be optimistic about their enjoyment:

- *You are really going to enjoy the seminar.*
- *You've done so well with these lessons, I know you will find the public seminar to be a blessing.*

30

6. Build the Speakers' Reputation:

I have told the speaker about my friends who are taking the introductory lessons and I'm looking forward to your meeting him.

7. Countdown:

- **Four weeks before** – Encourage them to put the dates for the first five nights (or opening weekend) on their calendar.
- **Three weeks before** – Say “I am looking forward to attending the public seminar, but I don’t want to go by myself. What do you think about us going and sitting together.”
- **Two weeks before** – Bring a copy of the advertising flyer to your student. Let them know this is the seminar you’ve been telling them about. Be enthusiastic and positive about their attendance. If they need a ride, make arrangements to pick them up.
- **Make Sure a handbill is mailed to their home.**
- **Week of meetings** – Stop by and asked if they received the general mailing of the handbill. Make sure they still have the schedule and know the date and time of the opening meetings. Again make arrangements to meet or drive there.
If they ask where the meetings will be held and they don’t yet know you are Seventh-day Adventist, tell them you will be getting that information for them but that you do know it begins on this or that date.

(Much of this section is excerpted from the book *Winsome Witnessing* by Gary Gibbs.)

Promises for Soul-winners

Power of Prayer:

The greatest victories gained for the cause of God are not the result of labored argument, ample facilities, wide influence, or abundance of means; they are gained in the audience chamber

with God, when with earnest, agonizing faith men lay hold upon the mighty arm of power.

Gospel Workers, p. 259

Let us also pray earnestly in behalf of those whom we expect to visit, by living faith bringing them, one by one, into the presence of God. The Lord knows the thought and purposes of man, and how easily He can melt us! “How His Spirit, like a fire, can subdue the flinty heart! How He can fill the soul with love and tenderness! How He can give us the graces of His Holy Spirit, and fit us to go in and out, in laboring for souls! ***Christian Service, p. 169***

When men are as devoted as Elijah was and possess the faith that he had, God will reveal Himself as He did then. When men plead with the Lord as did Jacob, the results that were seen then will again be seen. Power will come from God in answer to the prayer of faith. ***Gospel Workers, p. 255***

If we have the interest that John Knox had when he pleaded before God for Scotland, we shall have success. He cried, “Give me Scotland, Lord, or I die.” And when we take hold of

the work and wrestle with God, saying, “I must have souls; I will never give up the struggle,” we shall find that God will look upon our efforts with favor. ***Evangelism, p. 294***

Every worker who follows the example of Christ will be prepared to receive and use the power that God has promised to His church for the ripening of earth’s harvest. Morning by morning, as the heralds of the gospel kneel before the Lord and renew their vows of consecration to Him, He will grant them the presence of His Spirit, with its reviving, sanctifying power. As they go forth to the day’s duties, they have the assurance that the unseen agency of the Holy Spirit enables them to be ‘laborers together with God.’ [1 Cor. 3:9.]. ***Acts of the Apostles, p. 56***

When Circumstances Look Doubtful

In comparison to the number that reject the truth, those that receive it will be very small, but one soul is of more value than worlds beside. We must not become discouraged, although our work does not seem to bring large returns. *Evangelism, p. 329*

When in faith we take hold of His strength, He will change, wonderfully change, the most hopeless, discouraging outlook. He will do this for the glory of His name. *Testimonies, vol. 8, p. 12*

The worker for God needs strong faith. Appearances may seem forbidding; but in the darkest hour there is light beyond. The strength of those who, in faith, love and serve God, will be renewed day by day. The understanding of the Infinite is placed at their service, that in carrying out His purposes they may not err. Let these workers hold the beginning of their confidence firm unto the end, remembering that the light of God's truth is to shine amid the darkness that enshrouds our world. *Gospel Workers, p. 262*

God is able and willing to bestow upon His servants all the strength they need, and to give them the wisdom that their varied necessities demand. He will more than fulfill the highest expectations of those who put their trust in Him. *Gospel Workers, p. 262, 263*

Jesus does not call on us to follow Him, and then forsake us. If we surrender our lives to His service, we can never be placed in a position for which God has not made provision. Whatever may be our situation, we have a Guide to direct our way; whatever our perplexities, we have a sure Counselor; whatever our sorrow, bereavement, or loneliness, we have a sympathizing Friend. If in our ignorance we make missteps, Christ does not leave us. His voice, clear and distinct, is heard, saying, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life.' [JOHN 14:6.] 'He shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper.' [PS. 72:12.] *Gospel Workers, p. 263*

Are you tempted to give way to feelings of anxious foreboding or utter despondency? In the darkest days, when appearances seem most forbidding, fear not. Have faith in God. He knows your need. He has all power. His infinite love and compassion never weary. Fear not that He will fail of fulfilling His promise. He is eternal truth. Never will He change the

32

covenant He has made with those who love Him. And He will bestow upon His faithful servants the measure of efficiency that their need demands. *Prophets and Kings, p. 165*

Success Promised

It is not the capabilities you now possess, or ever will have, that will give you success. It is that which the Lord can do for you. We need to have far less confidence in what man can do, and far more confidence in what God can do for every believing soul. He longs to have you reach after Him by faith. He longs to have you expect great things from Him. He longs to give you understanding in temporal as well as in spiritual matters. He can sharpen the intellect. He can give tact and skill. Put your talents into the work, ask God for wisdom, and it will be given to you. *Christ's Object Lessons, p. 146*

Today those who forget self and rely on God for success in the work of soul-saving, will have the divine co-operation, and their efforts will tell gloriously in the salvation of souls. *Gospel Workers, p. 34*

God will not permit this precious work for Him to go unrewarded. He will crown with success every humble effort made in His name. *Gospel Workers, p. 192*

When we give ourselves wholly to God and in our work follow His directions, He makes Himself responsible for its accomplishment. He would not have us conjecture as to the success of our honest endeavors. Not once should we even think of failure. We are to co- operate with One who knows no failure. *Christ's Object Lessons, p. 363*

The good seed may for a time lie unnoticed in a cold, selfish, worldly heart, giving no evidence that it has taken root; but afterward, as the Spirit of God breathes on the soul, the hidden seed springs up, and at last bears fruit to the glory of God. In our life-work we know not which shall prosper, this or that. This is not a question for us to settle. We are to do our work, and leave the results with God.” *Christ's Object Lessons, p. 65*

Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit.” *Ministry of Healing, p. 43, 144*

Psalm 126:5, 6. They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

Isaiah 55:10, 11. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Whatsoever is done out of pure love, be it ever so little or contemptible in the sight of men, is wholly fruitful; for God regards more with how much love one worketh, than the amount he doeth.

Testimonies, vol. 2, p. 135

He who has appointed “to every man his work,” according to his ability, will never let the faithful performance of duty go unrewarded. Every act of loyalty and faith will be crowned with special tokens of God’s favor and approbation. To every worker is given the promise, “He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.” ***Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 395***

To every worker for God this thought should be a stimulus and an encouragement. In this life our work for God often seems to be almost fruitless. Our efforts to do good may be earnest and persevering, yet we may not be permitted to witness their results. To us the effort may seem to be lost. But the Saviour assures us that our work is noted in heaven, and that the recompense cannot fail. ***Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 305***

Every impulse of the Holy Spirit leading men to goodness and to God, is noted in the books of heaven, and in the day of God every one who has given himself as an instrument for the Holy Spirit’s working will be permitted to behold what his life has wrought. ***Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 310***

When the redeemed stand before God, precious souls will respond to their names who are there because of the faithful, patient efforts put forth in their behalf, the entreaties and earnest persuasions to flee to the Stronghold. Thus those who in this world have been laborers together with God will receive their reward. ***Testimonies, vol. 8, p. 196, 197***

What rejoicing there will be as these redeemed ones meet and greet those who have had a burden in their behalf! And those who have lived, not to please themselves, but to be a blessing to the

unfortunate who have so few blessings, --how their hearts will thrill with satisfaction! They will realize the promise, “Thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.” *Gospel Workers, p. 519*

To be a coworker with Christ and the heavenly angels in the great plan of salvation! What work can bear any comparison with this! From every soul saved, there comes to God a revenue of glory, to be reflected upon the one saved, and also upon the one instrumental in his salvation. *Testimonies, vol. 2, p. 232*

The redeemed will meet and recognize those whose attention they have directed to the uplifted Saviour. What blessed converse they will have with these souls! “I was a sinner,” it will be said, “without God and without hope in the world; and you came to me, and drew my attention to the precious Saviour as my only hope. And I believed in Him. I repented of my sins, and was made to sit together with His saints in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” Others will say: “I was a heathen in heathen lands. You left your friends and comfortable home, and

34

came to teach me how to find Jesus, and believe in Him as the only true God. I demolished my idols, and worshiped God, and now I see Him face to face. I am saved, eternally saved, ever to behold Him whom I love. I then saw Him only with the eye of faith, but now I see Him as He is. I can now express my gratitude for His redeeming mercy to Him who loved me, and washed me from my sins in His own blood.” *Gospel Workers, p. 518*

Others will express their gratitude to those who fed the hungry and clothed the naked. “When despair bound my soul in unbelief, the Lord sent you to me,” they say, “to speak words of hope and

comfort. You brought me food for my physical necessities, and you opened to me the Word of God, awakening me to my spiritual needs. You treated me as a brother. You sympathized with me in my sorrows, and restored my bruised and wounded soul, so that I could grasp the hand of Christ that was reached out to save me. In my ignorance you taught me patiently that I had a Father in heaven who cared for me. You read to me the precious promises of God's Word. You inspired in me faith that He would save me. My heart was softened, subdued, broken, as I contemplated the sacrifice which Christ had made for me. I became hungry for the bread of life, and the truth was precious to my soul. I am here, saved, eternally saved, ever to live in His presence, and to praise Him who gave His life for me." *Gospel Workers, p. 518, 519*

Daniel 12:3. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

35

Giving Bible Studies

Appendix

36

Neighborhood Survey

In an effort to better meet the needs of our community, please check the areas that would be a benefit to your family.

HEALTH

1. ☐ Stress Reduction Seminar (practical and easy ways)
2. ☐ *Foods for Thought* Seminar (how to eat better, feel better, and think better!)
3. ☐ *Living Free* Addiction Recovery Seminar (smoking, alcohol, drugs, food, internet, TV, etc)

FAMILY

4. ☐ Financial Freedom Seminar
5. ☐ Family Life Seminar (marriage enrichment, improving parent/child relationships, etc.)
6. ☐ Vacation Bible School
7. ☐ Christian Elementary School

BIBLE STUDY (*all free of charge!*)

8. ☐ Christian Video Lending Library
 9. ☐ *KidZone* Bible Guides (ages 7-13)
 10. ☐ *Prophecies of Hope* lessons on Daniel and Revelation
 11. ☐ *Search for Certainty* study guides providing answers to your questions about the Bible
 12. ☐ Neighborhood Bible Study Small Group
- Do you attend church regularly? ☐Yes ☐No

Which church? _____
Name: _____ Address: _____
_____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Names of Surveyors: _____

Neighborhood Survey

In an effort to better meet the needs of our community, please check the areas that would be a benefit to your family.

HEALTH

- 13. ☐ Stress Reduction Seminar (practical and easy ways)
- 14. ☐ *Foods for Thought* Seminar (how to eat better, feel better, and think better!)
- 15. ☐ *Living Free* Addiction Recovery Seminar (smoking, alcohol, drugs, food, internet, TV, etc)

FAMILY

- 16. ☐ Financial Freedom Seminar (
- 17. ☐ Family Life Seminar (marriage enrichment, improving parent/child relationships, etc.)
- 18. ☐ Vacation Bible School
- 19. ☐ Christian Elementary School

BIBLE STUDY (all free of charge!)

- 20. ☐ Christian Video Lending Library
- 21. ☐ *KidZone* Bible Guides (ages 7-13)

22. ☐ *Prophecies of Hope* lessons on Daniel and Revelation

23. ☐ *Search for Certainty* study guides providing answers to your questions about the Bible

24. ☐ Neighborhood Bible Study Small Group
Do you attend church regularly? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Which church? _____

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Names of Surveyors: _____

Neighborhood Survey

In an effort to better meet the needs of our community, please check the areas that would be a benefit to your family.

HEALTH

☐ Stress Reduction Seminar (practical and easy ways) ☐ *Foods for Thought* Seminar (how to eat better, feel

better, and think better!)

☐ *Living Free* Addiction Recovery Seminar (smoking,

alcohol, drugs, food, internet, TV, etc)

FAMILY

☐ Financial Freedom Seminar

☐ Family Life Seminar (marriage enrichment, improving

parent/child relationships, etc.) ☐ Vacation Bible School

☐ Christian Elementary School

BIBLE STUDY (all free of charge!)

- ☐ Christian Video Lending Library
☐ *KidZone* Bible Guides (ages 7-13)
☐ *Prophecies of Hope* lessons on Daniel and Revelation ☐ *Search for Certainty* study guides providing answers to

your questions about the Bible

- ☐ Neighborhood Bible Study Small Group

Do you attend church regularly? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Which church? _____

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Names of Surveyors: _____

Neighborhood Survey

In an effort to better meet the needs of our community, please check the areas that would be a benefit to your family.

HEALTH

- ☐ Stress Reduction Seminar (practical and easy ways) ☐ *Foods for Thought* Seminar (how to eat better, feel

better, and think better!)

- ☐ *Living Free* Addiction Recovery Seminar (smoking,

alcohol, drugs, food, internet, TV, etc)

FAMILY

- ☐ Financial Freedom Seminar (
☐ Family Life Seminar (marriage enrichment, improving

parent/child relationships, etc.) ☐ Vacation Bible School
☐ Christian Elementary School

BIBLE STUDY (all free of charge!)

☐ Christian Video Lending Library
☐ KidZone Bible Guides (ages 7-13)
☐ *Prophecies of Hope* lessons on Daniel and Revelation ☐ *Search for Certainty* study guides providing answers to

your questions about the Bible
☐ Neighborhood Bible Study Small Group

Do you attend church regularly? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Which church? _____

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____
Names of Surveyors: _____

Community Religious Survey 1

“Hello, my name is _____ and this is my friend _____. We have volunteered this afternoon to take a brief religious community survey. It is only four questions and takes no more than 120 seconds. Do you have 2 minutes? Great!”

1. “Do you have a church or religious preference?”

1. a) Christian _____ Which church or denomination? _____
2. b) Catholic _____ c) Jew _____ d) Hindu _____ e) Buddhism _____

f) Islam _____ g) Other _____ h) None _____

1. **“Are you able to attend a place of worship?” _____ If yes then,
“How often are you able to attend?”**

a) Consistently _____ b) Moderately _____ c) Almost Never _____

2. **“Do you believe that if the Bible were read and followed it would help people solve some of the problems they face today? Why or Why not?”**

3. **“Suppose four seminars were being held in your town and you were going to attend two. Which two of the following would you attend?”**

1. **a) Health (low cholesterol cooking, stress reduction, stop smoking, exercise, etc.)**

2. **b) Family (marriage, husband/wife communication, parent/child relationships, etc.)**

3. **c) The Christian Life (prayer, discipleship, how to study the Bible, handling temptation, etc.)**

4. **d) Bible Prophecy (last-day events, prophecies for our days, understanding the books of Daniel and the Revelation, etc.)**

4. ➤ “Thank you for participating in our survey. Your answers help us know the religious preferences of people and their interests. This will help us as community events are planned in the future.”
5. ➤ May we stay in touch with you, to let you know of events, services, or classes that will be offered in the community? ☐ Yes ☐ No
6. ➤ “As a token of our thanks we are offering FREE Bible study guides on subjects such as _____. Here are samples of two most people really like. *(Tell the features of each one.)* Which one interests you the most?” *(Once they choose, tell them how they can continue receiving these FREE lessons.)*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ Best time to reach you: _____

38

Community Religious Survey 2

Hello my name is _____ and this is my friend _____. We are out doing a community opinion survey. The survey has only a few questions. Do you have two minutes? Great!

1. In your opinion, is there a God? _____ Yes _____ No
2. Do you think there is life after death? _____ Yes _____ No
If “yes,” in what form? _____

3. According to your understanding, who is Jesus?
_____ Son of God _____ Savior of Man _____ Creator _____ Prophet _____ not sure

4. Do you believe Jesus will come again? _____ Yes _____ No

5. Is there a Bible in your home? _____ Yes _____ No
If “yes,” how often to you get a chance to read it? _____

6. Do you feel you understand the Bible as well as you would like? _____ Yes _____ No

7. What church do (or did) your parents attend? _____

8. Do you belong to the same church? _____ Yes _____ No

9. How often are you able to attend church? ___ weekly ___ monthly ___ seldom ___ never

10. In your opinion, how does one become a Christian?

11.

12. If you had the opportunity, would you like to study the Bible more? _____ Yes _____ No
If “yes,” how would you like to study? _____ personally in your home _____ with videos
_____ with self-study lessons
_____ through the mail (*last option*)

Name _____
Address _____ City _____
_____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone # _____
_____ Best Time to Reach _____ Map Coordinates _____ Name of
Surveyors _____

39

Final Events of Prophecy Survey

Hello. My name is _____. Today I am partnering with Amazing Facts Ministry and doing a short community opinion survey of eight questions. I'm not selling anything and this will only take a few minutes.

1. In your opinion, what is the greatest problem in society? _____
_____ Do you
believe there is a possible solution? _____

2. Do you believe in God? YES NO

3. When you watch local and international news, are you ever apprehensive about the

future? YES NO

Is there a reason why? _____

1. Do you believe that Jesus will come to earth again? YES NO If yes, do you believe it will
occur in your lifetime? YES NO

2. Do you believe that the book of Revelation can help us understand America's role in current world events? YES NO NOT SURE
3. What do you think the Mark of the Beast is? _____
4. If you had the opportunity to learn how to unlock the symbols and better understand the prophecies in the books of Daniel and Revelation, would you take that opportunity? YES NO

Wonderful! Let me tell you about something I'm sure you will be interested in! For a limited amount of time, we are offering an exciting multimedia DVD called *The FINAL EVENTS of Bible Prophecy*. It is packed full of Scripture references and amazing facts about Bible prophecies for our time. We cannot give this DVD away, but we are leaving it on loan for ONE WEEK. There is absolutely NO FEE involved!

Is this something you would be interested in watching?

Great! Here is your DVD. Would next week at this same time be good for picking it up? Also, what is your phone number in case we miss each other?

Great! I'll see you next week. And at that time, I would be interested in knowing what you thought about the DVD.

Name _____ **Address** _____ **Phone** _____
Accepted DVD: Yes No **Appointment for Pick-Up:** Day _____ Time _____